

# A Bin-Full Of Grain Storage Ideas

Here's a roundup of grain storage ideas that "saved the day" for farmers in previous emergencies. Some are updated unusual ideas from previous issues of FARM SHOW. Good reading! And good luck in finding a satisfactory home for your crops this fall.



## Convert Your Combine To Harvest Ear Corn?

Some farmers pressed for shelled corn storage space are toying with the idea of harvesting this year's crop as ear corn so it can be stored cheap, and without drying, in snow-fence cribbing.

"Deere combines make great ear corn pickers," says an Indiana farmer who's converted two 7700 combines into corn pickers by replacing cylinders and concaves with husking beds.

Bob Stevenson, who farms near Brookston, wasn't satisfied with his New Idea Uni-Harvester. "It didn't have the capacity we needed and we were losing too much loose shelled corn. Our converted 7700 picks with an 8-row head and all kernels that fall from the ears are saved by the straw walkers left in place below the husking beds."

Stevenson needed the extra capacity of his made-it-myself picker to handle his 900 acres of popcorn but says the home-built picker would work just as well in field corn.

To convert the 7700, Stevenson first removed the concave, beaters, cylinders, and most other feeding parts and installed an additional feeder chain that carries cobs up to the husking bed installed in the clean grain tank. He bought a new Uni-Harvester husking bed from New Idea.

From the husking bed, cobs pass to a second set of husking rollers installed just behind the grain tank. Once husked, a New Idea Uni elevator carries cobs to a trailing 350 bu. wagon, which Stevenson says the rear-wheel-drive Deere combine can easily

pull.

On Stevenson's first converted machine—a 1976 model 7700—he ran a jackshaft from the combine's variable speed drive on the right side of the machine to the husking bed's driveshaft on the left side. On his second combine, he's using hydrostatic motors to provide power.

"Because it's got double the husking capacity, it'll easily handle the output of an 8-row header," notes Stevenson. Grain that falls from the husking rollers falls to the straw walkers below and is cleaned and elevated to the trailing wagon with the ear corn.

Stevenson says one of the trickiest parts of the conversion was mounting the second feeder-house in the correct position. In his second conversion he completely removed the clean grain tank to make more room.

"When I started working on it last year I called Deere to get some help with the idea and they told me they'd never heard of anyone doing it before," says Stevenson, who says total cost of a converted 7700, including the combine, is about \$60,000. "That's about the same cost as a Uni-Harvester which has much less capacity. Last year we picked as much as 95 acres per day with this machine. It makes people slow down on the highway to take a closer look."

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bob Stevenson, Rt. 1, Brookston, Ind. 47923 (ph 317 563-3335).



## Straw Bale Grain Bins

"I got the idea from my dad," says Francis Kinze, about the straw bale "grain bins" he erected to store a bumper crop of barley and oats on his farm near Pike Lake, Sask.

"They seal themselves tight so grain doesn't leak out and they're flexible enough not to break apart when they bend," he says. "We don't have to line the bales with anything and they hold well enough so we can put them up on both flat and uneven ground."

Kinze first dumps 300 to 400 bu. of grain on the spot he chooses for his grain bin. He then lays the first row of bales around that grain, lying end to end on their sides. He wraps the bales with two strands of barbed

wire, pulling it tight. More grain is then loaded into the bin, filling to the top of the first row of bales. A second row of bales is laid on top and tied with two strands of wire, and then the rest of the grain is augered in. Kinze says the wire should be pulled as tight as possible because the circle of bales will push out somewhat as it's loaded. He doesn't connect the two rows of bales top to bottom.

"We made several bale rings to store grain. Most were about 20 bales around, and either 2 or 3 bales high. The 2-bale rings hold 8,000 to 9,000 bu. of grain while the 3-bale rings hold 12,000 to 15,000 bu. They could be built smaller or larger," says Kinze.

## Buy Yourself An Ear Corn Picker?

Some corn growers may harvest part of their 1986 crop as ear corn, then store it outside in low-cost snow fence or wire cribbing.

Here's a quick-rundown on "who makes what" in ear corn pickers:

Deere's 300 pull-type ear Corn Husker is available with three different heads: Model 243 (takes two 28, 30 or 32 in. rows); Model 244 (takes two 36, 38 or 40 in. rows); and Model 343 (takes three 28, 30 or 32 in. rows). The same heads adapt to Deere's forage harvester for chopping high moisture ear corn and thus, are readily available used from Deere dealers.

Stitzel Enterprises, of Hamburg, Penn., recently purchased New Idea's entire factory inventory of one row (Model 323) and two row (Model 324) pull-type ear corn pickers. "We bought 41 two row and 217 one row pickers which we're selling direct, at bargain prices, to farmers and dealers. We're asking buyers to sign a waiver of liability in case of accidental injury," Brian Stitzel told

FARM SHOW. Stitzel's price for the two row Model 324 is \$10,950, including the husking bed. An optional sheller attachment is \$3,500. Stitzel's price on the one row Model 323 pickers is \$5,850.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Stitzel Enterprises Inc., Rt. 2, Hamburg, Penn. 19526 (ph 215 562-8377, or 562-7451).

New Idea no longer makes pull-type pickers but still makes the self-propelled Uni-System with its husking bed attachment. Heads are available to handle 3, 4 or 6 rows. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, New Idea, 123 W. Sycamore, Coldwater, Ohio 45828 (ph 419 678-5311).

Vermeer Mfg. currently makes pull-type pickers on a custom order basis. However, to get a machine for this fall you needed to order it back in June. Machines are built to handle four 30 in., four 38 in., or six 30 in. rows.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Vermeer Mfg., New Sharon Road, Pella, Iowa 52019 (ph 515 628-3141).